

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 through 10 are pending, with Claims 1, 9, and 10 being independent. Claims 3 and 11 through 68 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 through 10 have been amended, with Claim 1 having been amended, among other changes, to include selected language from Claim 3.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the cancellation without prejudice of that claim. It is also submitted that the language from Claim 3 that was incorporated into Claim 1 has been revised to avoid the grounds of rejection.

Claims 1 through 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,484,195 B1 (Igarashi, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 9, and 10 variously recite, inter alia, designating an image among the plurality of images in the document information to be changed by an image newly stored in the image storage unit or step, and creating new document information by substituting the designated image in the document information by the image stored in the image storage unit or step.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Igarashi, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed combinations of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 9, and 10. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at the above-discussed combinations of claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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